ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—:OF THE:—

Forty-first Annual Session

—:OF THE:—

Warrior River Baptist Association

—{ HELD WITH }—

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH,

MCLARTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1899.

OFFICERS.

ALLEN DORMAN, MODERATOR, - - - McLarty, Ala.
O. A. STEELE, CLERK. - - - - - Oneonta, Ala.
I. T. STEPHENS, TREASURER. - - Blountsville Ala.

The next Session will be held with Cleveland Baptist Church, beginning on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1900.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters.
2. Elect officers.
3. Call for correspondence.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint temporary committees.
   (1) On devotion.
   (2) On deceased ministers.
   (3) On nominations.
   (4) On letters and documents.
   (5) On finance.
6. Appoint standing committees.
   (a) On Sabbath schools.
   (b) On missions.
   (c) On temperance.
   (d) On orphanage and orphans.
   (e) On education and ministerial education.
7. Appoint delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions
8. Call for report of executive committee.
9. Call for report of missionary.
10. Call for report of committees.
11. Call for report of treasurer.
12. Provide for printing of minutes.
13. Elect executive committee.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Adjourn.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Francis Tidwell, Tidwell.
S. J. Cox, Blountsville.
E. M. Bowerman, Joy.
W. H. Absher, Hanceville.
H. G. B. Bynum, Snead.
T. J. Chamblee, Gum Springs.
J. A. May, Walnut Grove.
J. W. Crumbley, Oneonta.
H. W. Head, Gum Springs.
J. C. Buckner, Oneonta.
W. A. Alexander, Walnut Grove.
A. A. Pannel, Walnut Grove.
W. J. Lee, Adville.
G. A. Chunn, Blountsville.
S. O. Howard, Oneonta.
J. C. Whatley, Holly Pond.
S. R. Brown, Brooksville.
Alen Dorman, McLarty.
Jesse Brown, Highmound.
A. E. Sims, Friendship.
G. W. Sanders, Snead.

MINUTES.

McLarty, Ala., Oct. 13, 1899.

The Warrior River Baptist Association met this day in its Forty-first Annual Session, meeting having commenced with Macedonia church at 11 o'clock a. m., Bro. Allen Dorman, Moderator, present and presiding. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. H. G. B. Bynum. Text, 1st Corinthians, 14th chapter and 38th verse: "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant." The sermon was a strong and forcible presentation of the vice of ignorance and the good of a christain education. Bro. J. A. May concluded the services by some remarks on the line of Ministerial Education which were well received by the Association.

Association adjourned one hour for dinner.

1 O'CLOCK P. M.

Association called together by singing "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord." Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. J. M. McCord.

Dr. P. G. Alldredge, J. M. McCord and H. W. Head were appointed as reading tellers to read letters. Read letters and enrolled delegates as follows:—

Antioch—F P Morris, L C Dempsey, R A Man, and G D Shelton.
Austin Creek—A L Pass, E K Head, and J C Head.
Big Warrior—R H Hardin, A R Head, and T W Wynn.
Brooksville—S O Howard, T R Allgood, W T Morris, and J W Jones.
Blountsville—J C Hyatt, I T Stephens, and Robert Tidwell.
Bethel—Jesse Brown, G W Sanders, DJ Cooper, L D Stephens, W F Harns.
Cedar Grove—J T Black and J N Fowler.
County Line—I J Hannah and W D Jones.
Friendship—N S Lott, C M Dyar, E V Dyar, G B Williamson; J I Hughes, Alternate.
Guin's Cove—J S Musgrove and J F Musgrove.
Cleveland—M Head, J C Tidwell, W B Roberts, and A A Hunt.
Holly Pond—F M Chance, W M House, J T Whitaker, W A Chance and D B Goss.
Harmony—J A May, W L Ellison, A F Whitley, J K Nix, and T F Ellison.
Liberty Hill—E M Cox, D H Campbell, and J M Cox.
Liberty—O A Steele, P B Mitchell, Dan Bailey, W J Young, James Carnes.
Mulberry—R P Starnes.
Mt. Pisgah—J J Ruse, R R Harris, J T Blalock, and J M Harris.
Mt. Pleasant—G W Tumlin, J R Godard, and Thomas Scruggs.
Macedonia—J M Ellison, M B Lowry, W F Rhodes, A Dorman, Wm Whitfield, and Wm Wood.
Mt. Tabor—T J Chamblee.
Mt. Carmel—James Bradley and J C Buckner.
New Prospect—J A Johnston, Henry Wilson, and W R Barker.
Oak Grove—W J Skinner, W G Dutton, J D Morgan, and W T Walker.
Pine Grove—J W Crumbley and J T Walker.
Pine Bluff—L T Fendley and L P Mewborn.

Association went into the election of its officers. Bro. J. M. McCord, Bro. P. G. Alldredge and Bro. J. S. Braseal were appointed as tellers to take the vote which was made by ballot and resulted in the election of Allen Dorman, Moderator; O. A. Steele, Clerk; and I. T. Stephens, Treasurer.

Called for correspondents. Bro. J. S. Braseal was received as a correspondent from the Etowah Association, Bro. John Trotter from the Sulphur Springs Association, Bro. D. L. Duncan and Bro. Henry McMurray from the Cullman Association, Bro. James Gellispie from the Marshall Association, and Bro. J. M. McCord as the representative of the State Mission Board and the Institute Board.

Called for petitionary churches, none.

Appointed temporary committees as follows:—

On Letters and Documents—F P Smith, S R Burson and James Holmes.

On State of Religion—G W Sanders, W R Barker and E K Head.

On Finance—W L Ellisson, P B Mitchell and F M Chance.

On Prayer Meeting—W A Alexander, J K Nix and Joe Johnston.

On Devotion—A F Whitley, G D Shelton and the deacons of Macedonia church.

On Deceased Ministers—W H Absher, H G B Bynum and Jesse Brown.

On Nominations—I T Stephens, A F Whitley and F P Morris.

Elected Bro. P. G. Alldredge, Bro. G. A. Chunn, Bro. W. H. Absher, Bro. J. A. May and Bro. Francis Tidwell as delegates to the Baptist State Convention, which meets in Gadsden Nov. 8-10, 1899.

Bro. H. W. Head was elected as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, Bro. J A. May as Alternate. The Convention meets at Hot Springs, Ark. A motion to pay delegates expenses to the said Convention was laid on the table.

On motion Association adjourned to 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, 8 O'CLOCK A. M.

Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by W. H. Absher.

On motion speeches were limited to 10 minutes and no one be permitted to speak more than one time on any subject except by permission of the body.

Appointed standing committees as follows:—

On Sabbath Schools—P G Alldredge, William Hyatt and Willie Gillispie.

On Temperance—O A Steele, T J Chamblee and W R Barker.

On Education—H G B Bynum, J A Chance and Robt. Tidwell.

On Mission—W H Absher, J M Pass and A R Head.

On Orphanage—Joshua Ratliff, G A Chunn and J W Crumbley.

Called for report of Executive Committee which was given further time.

Called for report on Sabbath School which was passed and made the regular order of business for 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

Called for report of committee on Education and Ministerial Education which reported through their Chairman P. G. Alldredge. Report discussed by P. G. Alldredge, H. W Head, G. A. Chunn, J. A. May, O. A. Steele and J. M. McCord. Further discussion of the report was postponed until the afternoon and called for report of committee on missions which was read at the request of Bro. S. J. Cox by G. A. Chunn, and discussed by J. M. McCord and adopted as read.

We your committee on Missions submit the following report:—

State Missions:—The chief work of the State Board has hitherto been to establish churches in destitute regions. This work has been so vigorously prosecuted that there are now in the State very few communities without a Baptist church. The Board having succeeded in establishing churches in almost every place where there was no Baptist church, it now turns its attention to the teaching of the disciples the commandments of the Lord. This the Board is attempting to do, by assisting weak churches in sustaining suitable pastors, by employing evangelists as opportunity offers and the means are furnished, and by holing rallie for the discussion of our denominational work.

The Board had in its employ during the Conventional year 1897-98, 21 men, 12 of whom were employed as missionary pastors, 3 as missionary evangelist, and 6 as missionaries and colporters.

The amount received by the Board from all sources was $8,526.43 and expended as follows:—

By amount of deficit last year	$1,462.55.
Exchange	12.87.
Telegrams	6.53.
Postage	90.33.
Office expenses	290.00.
Traveling expenses, corresponding secretary	300.01.
Agents	216.86.
Board	200.37.
Stationery and Printing	84.41.
Salary of secretary	1,134.65.
Evangelist Missionaries	4,571.21.
Paid central committee	10.76.
South Montgomery church	83.53.
Printing minutes	32.77.

This leaves a balance on hand of $22.07. The results of the work done through the Board are very encouraging, for which we give God all the glory.

HOME MISSIONS:—The Home Board has not been indifferent to the interest of the cause of the Master intrusted to them, nor heedless of the openings that lead to success. They have increased their work in many of our fields and have diminished it in none. The number of missionaries employed this year was 653 against 467 last year. Baptisms this year 6552 against 4739 last year. Total additions to churches this year 12983 against 9509 last year. Sunday Schools organized this year 512 with 14768 teachers and pupils, against 297 with 7710 teachers and pupils last year. The amount raised and expended on the field for Home Missions this year is $65818.81 against $54251.04 last year. There has been collected and expended in building houses of worship on the field this year $50050.33 against $56386.46 last year, making a total of money raised on the field $115869.14 against $110639.50 last year, an increase of $5232.64 These figures are very gratifying and should stimulate every Baptist in the Warrior River Association to a more liberal support of the Home Board.

FOREIGN MISSIONS:—Our Heavenly Father, the God of Missions, has greatly blessed our work in foreign lands during the past year. The number of converts Baptized last year was larger than in any former year. Our missions generally are well organized and the outlook is full of hope. The Foreign Board has sent out 19 new missionaries, last year, to foreign fields, which adds much to the strength of our work in foreign lands. The amount received by the Board last year was $109,267.43. The receipts of last year were somewhat smaller than several years past, which must be accounted for, in that so many extra collections have been taken to pay old indebtedness. Yet when we consider the fact that 845 souls accepted Christ and was baptized on foreign shores during the past year, we should take fresh courage and press the work of the Master with greater zeal. We, your Committee, would recommend that each church in this Association adopt the same systemmatical plan by which to raise money for the support of our great Missionary cause all along during the year and not wait until the meeting of the Association.

Brethren, let us enter upon the work assigned us by our blessed Saviour during the next year with renewed energy.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. J. Cox.

Adjourned for preaching 11 o'clock a. m.

Preaching by Rev. J. A. May. Scripture used as a text: Matthew 27th Chapter from the 35th to 51st verse—Theme—"Crucifixion of Christ'

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. H. W. Head.

The further discussion of the report of the Committee on Education and Ministerial Education, was resumed. Discussion continued by Bro. W. Y. Adams. Report amended so as to give the number of Ministerial Students in the Walnut Grove College and Howard College, and adopted as amended.

We, your Committee on Education and Ministerial Education, desire to say that there are various kinds of education, and in this connection we can do no more than call attention to some monstrous evils that result from a faulty education. It goes without saying that the two most potent forces in the education or moulding of the intelect of the youth of our country is in the hands of our preachers and school teachers. Paul says: "So we preach, so you believe." And it being a fact beyond doubt or dispute that we are all more or less creatures of circumstances and environments. And that human nature is of such a composition that it will imbibe more or less of whatever it comes in contact with, and when anything is crystalized in the mind it is almost an impossibility to ever entirely eradicate it. Prudence would suggest that we have an educated Ministry and a God-fearing, orderly-walking teacher to develope the expanding faculties of our children, in whom the hope of our country, both Church and State, rests.

This is not all, We wish to warn our people of the baneful influence that is being wrought all over the land by the dissemination of trashy literature, such as "Ingersolls" works, "Mormon Tracts", "Saturday Blades" and dime novels and all other stuff of like character, which is only fit for making bonfires of, and ought, under no circumstances, to be allowed to enter a Christian home. Parents ought to know what their children read, for bad books, like bad company, sooner or later bring all concerned to grief.

Further, we wish to urge that no teacher be engaged to teach in the pulic schools who are at least not strictly moral. And if he be a Christian, so much the better,

In this connection we wish to call upon the Baptist of this section to prove their loyalty to Baptist principles and traditions by patronizing our own Denominational Schools, whose Faculties are not only Christians, but Baptist Christians, and whose literary attainments and natural abilities are equal to the best.

On the subject of Ministerial Education, we wish to state the position of our denomination in such plain and emphatic language that there can no longer remain any doubt as to what we hold to: 1st.—We believe in a Divine call to the Ministry, and without such a call and qualification that no amount of education ever made a single Gospel preacher.

2nd.—After the Church is satisfied that the Spirit has laid the burden of preaching on a young man of meager education and little means to obtain it, then it is the plain duty of the Churches to help to the extent of their ability to educate such a one.

The trouble is we do not practice what we preach in this particular and the result is that we have many young Ministers going through life handicapped for want of a liberal education and the sphere of usefullness greatly circumscribed and lessened by reason of such defect and each year that passes by only adds to the difficulties, for the time has passed and gone forever when uneducated Ministers can do the good and wield the influence they once did in this country. The masses are better educated than they ever were before and the preachers ought to be equal with the best of his congregation.

In closing, we wish to state that money invested in the education of our

young Ministers is the best investment that our denomination can put it to.

We have at present three Ministerial Students in Walnut Grove College and twenty-five in Howard College.

Respectfully Submitted,
P. G. Alldredge, Chairman.

Called for report of Executive Committee which was read and adopted as follows:—

We your committee would report the following:— We held a meeting in November at Blountsville and we agreed to give Bro. S. J. Cox $10.00 to serve Big Warrior and he has done the work and we have paid him; and we assigned 5 days of Brother Bynum's and Bro Cox's volunteer work to Big Warrior and they have done the work; and we assigned 5 days of Bro. Head's and Bro, Bowerman's to Guins Cove and they did not do the work at that place but they have put in their full ten days at other places. Th following Brethren have done nothing in regard to volunteer work:—W. A. Alexander, F. Tidwell, S O Howard and S. R. Burson. Brother Dorman has put in his 10 days, and Bro. W. Y Adams agreed to do 4 days and has put in 20 days. We have ordered paid Bro. Ledbetter $5 00 for work done 3 miles west of Blountsville. and we have ordered $2.00 paid to Bro A, A. Pannel for Ministerial Education, We find the Association in good condition and out of debt, and we have $11.69 in the Treasury.

Respectfully submitted,
A. F. Whitley, Chairman.

Called for report of Committee on Orphanage which was read by O A. Steele, discussed by J. M. McCord and adopted as read.

The Baptist forces of Alabama have erected to themselves a monument grand in its purposes benevolent in its practices and great in its results and have supplied a long felt want and undertaken a long deserved responsibility in erecting and maintaining the "Louis Short Baptist Widows and Orphans Home" located at Evergreen Alabama which has been in operation a little more than six years and during that time has received into its sheltering and protecting walls forty-nine boys and sixty-nine girls and out of it into the best homes of the state have gone twenty-eight boys and twenty-seven girls leaving in the institution, to be cared for by us 63 helpless ones.

The home consists of 80 acres of land and an 8 room brick building and two tenant homes and is situated on main street in Evergreen Ala. next door to the Agricultural School which is presided over by Prof. J. A. Liner a Baptist. The house is controlled by Rev.

J. W. Stewart, a capable conscientious and able Baptist Minister and sister Jessie M. Hardy both of whom are devoting their lives to the care of these little helpless ones and it costs about ten dollars per day to support the institution.

From what has been said above you see the necessity for help.

Brethren, this orphanage is ours and we must bear our part of the burden.

The condition of the helpless always appeals to the sympathy of the human heart, whether it be the heart of Saint or sinner. But how much more should it touch the heart of a Christian man or woman, since we are taught that "He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth to the Lord." and that "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." and that "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father, is this to visit the fathless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep yourselves unspotted from the word" The opportunity is ours, the glory shall be to the Father and the blessing shall be ours, and Gods Cause and Kingdom be built up and you yourselves shall be blessed in being a part of the great Baptist heart of Alabama that feels the responsibility of caring for those helpless ones under our care—They are ours—ours to support—ours to have taught—ours to love—ours to pray for—ours to talk for and ours to give our means and money for.

O. A. Steele, Chairman.

Called for Report on Letters and Documents, which was read by Bro. F. P. Smith and adopted as read:—

We, your Committee on Letters and Documents, beg leave to report as follows:—We have examined the letters as received and find that 25 Churches are represented in our Body and if we have made no mistake there are only 70 delegates present besides the ex-officio members. We find that there is much time taken up in reading the letters to the Association and we recommend that the Churches adopt as short a form as practicable for their letters to make them complete.

Respectfully Submitted.

F. P. Smith.

Called for Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers, which was read and adopted as read:—

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers, beg leave to report that according to the letters from the several Churches that not one of our Ministers have died during this Associational year, for which we are thankful.

W. H. Absher.

At this point the regular order of business was suspended to take a collection to pay our one-third share of insurance on the College at Walnut Grove. Amount collected ten dollars.

Under the head of new or miscellaneous business, On motion the resolutions laid over from the last Association, looking to the organization of Ministers' Mutual Benefit Association was taken up and discussed by Bro. S. O. Howard and adopted:—

Resolved: That this Association urge and insist on the Baptist Ministers of the State of Alabama organizing themselves into a Mutual Benefit Association To the end that in case of death or permanent disability our ministers not be thrown on the cold charities of the world to be neglected in their old age when they are no longer able to serve the churches as some of our ministers have done.

Resolved; Further that we ask brother Bledsoe as our Secretary to take up this matter and push it to a finish, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Alabama Baptist for publication, and that the Secretary of this Association be directed to write a personal letter to Bro. Bledsoe calling his attention to this Resolution.

On motion the following resolution was offered:—

Resolved; That this Association endorse the idea of a Ministers Benefit Association and instruct our representatives to work and vote to this end at the next meeting of the Alabama State Convention.

Resolution was discussed by P. G. Alldredge, J. M. McCord, G. A Chunn, W H. Absher and S. O. Howard.

Called for report of Committee on Nominations which was read and adopted as follows:—

We, your Committee on Nominations, nominate Cleveland church as the place for holding our next Association, to commence on Friday before the third Sabbath in October, 1900, and W. H. Absher to preach the Introductory Sermon with J. C. Whatley as alternate; S. J. Cox to preach the Missionary Sermon on Sunday at 11 a. m. with J. A. May as alternate. We also recommend the re-election of the present Executive Committee and of the present Trustees of Walnut Grove College. I. T. Stephens.

Called for report of Finance Committee which was read, amended and adopted as follows:—

We your Committee on Finance have received $132.08 to be used as follows and divided as below:—

CHURCHES	MINUTE FUND.	STATE MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	ORPHANS' HOME	HOME MISSIONS
Antioch	$2 00	$	$3 00	$	$2 25
Austin Creek	1 50	50	2 00	1 25	75
Big Warrior	75		1 00		2 00
Brooksville	1 10	05	65	1 00	
Blountsville	1 25	2 25	3 55	5 20	2 25
Bethel	75		1 15		25
Ceder Grove	50		1 60	1 65	
County Line	85			60	
Friendship	1 70		5 34	3 40	
Gum's Cove	50		50		50
Holly Pond*	1 55			1 95	
Harmony	1 50	3 25		3 00	
Liberty Hill	70				
Liberty	2 00			5 32	
Mulberry	80	55	1 80	50	25
Mt. Pisgah	1 00		2 05		
Mt. Pleasant	1 10		30	00	
Macedonia	1 40		6 20	1 25	
Mt. Tabor	1 75	1 35	1 35	1 00	
New Prospect	85				2 10
Cleveland	1 75			3 52	25
Oak Grove	1 20		3 00	85	60
Pine Grove	1 50		2 00	1 80	
Pine Bluff	1 00				1 50
Mt. Carmel	1 25				70
Total	30 25	8 55	35 49	3289	13 40

*For Indigent Ministers $1.50

Amount collected to pay Insurance on Walnut Grove College $10.00.

Total amount received, $132.08, all of which we have paid to Treasurer and have his receipt.

W. L. Ellison, Chairman.

On motion the clerk was allowed ten dollars for his services in preparing and sending out the minutes, have the minutes printed as

cheap as he can, buy the Associational Church Letters, and send out to the churches at the exense of the minute fund, and if any left, turn the same over to the Treasurer.

Treasurer made the following report which was adopted:—

I. T. Stephens in account with the Warrior River Baptist Association.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS	
Rec'd of Finance Committee for		Paid to Clerk	$28.75
Minute Fund	$28.75	„ W. Y. Adams for	
Foreign Missions	31.88	Foreign Missions	31.88
State „	23.30	State „	8.00
Home „	2.56	Orphans Home	18.28
Associational purposes	8.36	Paid Treasurer	2.44
Public Collection	6.50	„ Home Missions Board	2.56
Orphans Home	18.28	„ S. J. Cox to aid Big Warrior	10 00
Ministerial Education	2.00	„ R. C. Ledbetter for Mission work near Blountsville	6.00
		„ A. A. Pannel to aid him in Walnut Grove College	2.00
		State Missions fund on had	11.71
Total	$121.62	Total	$121.62

On motion A. A. Pannel was made the beneficiary of the Ministerial Educational fund and the amount of money now in the hands of the Treasurer be paid to Bro. A. A. Pannell.

Committee on State of Religion made the following report through Bro. G. W Sanders which was adopted as follows

Committee on State of Religion made the following report:—

Brethren we are proud to state from the reading of the letters on yesterday that quite a number of the churches have had glorious revivals and quite a number of accessions to the church, for which we ought to be very thankful to Almighty God for the outpouring of His Grace. We regret to state that some of the churches report a cold and unfruitful condition. Brethren let us use every effort to the progress of religion that no such reports may ever come to this body again

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Sanders, Chairman.

Committee an Prayer meetings reported as follows, read by Bro. J K. Nix:—

We your Committee on Prayer Meetings ask leave to make the following Report. We learn from the reading of the letters from the different churches that quite a number of our churches either fail to report or have no regular prayer meetings. We recommend that each church make an effort to carry on a prayer meeting regularly

and that they report the same to the Association in their letters.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. A. Alexander, Chairman.

On motion H. W. Head and O. A. Steele were appointed to revise the order of business and report at the next session of the Association before the appointment of Standing Committee.

On motion Adjourned until 9 o'clock Sunday morning. Prayer by S. R. Burson.

SUNDAY 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Association called to order by Moderator. Prayer by Bro. J. A. May.

Call for report of Committee on Sabbath Schools which was read by Bro. O. A. Steele at the request of the Committee. On motion one half of the time remaining for business be given to the report on Sabbath schools and the other one half be given to the interest of the Orphanage.

Report on Sabbath schools discussed by J. T Whitaker, G. A. Chunn, W. Y. Adams and J. A. May, and adopted as read.

Took up discussion of Orphanage discussed by G A. Chunn, H. W. Head, P G Alldredge and O. A. Steele, and took up a collection for Orphanage amounting to $9.00

On motion the following resolution was adopted:—Resolved by the Warrior River Baptist Association, that we tender our heartiest thanks to Macedonia church and the people of the community for their kind and hearty hospitality in entertaining the present session and trust that we have been a benefit to them. O. A. Steele.

On motion the Executive Committee was requested to look after the Orphans of our Association and to receive any contribution for the support of the Orphanage and remit direct to the financial secretary of our Orphanage

On motion the Association adjourned to take effect after the preaching of the Missionary sermon, to meet with Cleveland church Friday before the 2nd Sunday in October 1900. Closed by prayer led by Bro. S. O. Howard.

At 11 o'clock a. m., Missionary sermon preached by Bro. Francis Tidwell.

Took a collection for Missions amounting to $9 05 After listening to a strong sermon from Bro. Tidwell and while listening to the sweet songs of Zion led by Profs. Brown and Dias, the Association took the parting hand and under the influence of the precious Gospel sermon to which we had listened and the comforting Spirit of the Blessed Master, many were heard to shout aloud the glory of his blessed name and so ended one of the sweetest sessions of the Warrior River Baptist Association.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, FOR YEAR 1899.

CHURCHES	MINUTE FUND.	STATE MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	ORPHANS' HOME	HOME MISSIONS	PASTORS' SALARY	SUNDAY S. EXPENSES	VALUE OF PROPERTY
Antioch	$2 00	$	$3 00	$	$2 25	$	$4 00	$600
Austin Creek	1 50	50	2 00	1 25	75			
Big Warrior	75		1 00		2 00	25		
Brooksville	1 10	65	65	1 00				600
Blountsville †	1 25	2 25	3 55	5 20	2 25	60	14 60	500
Bethel	75		1 15		25			300
Ceder Grove	50		1 60	1 65				200
County Line	85			60			5 25	500
Friendship	1 70		5 34	3 40				400
Gunn's Cove	50		50		50			200
Holly Pond*	1 55			1 95		23	7 50	700
Harmony	1 50	3 25		3 00			3 25	400
Liberty Hill	70							500
Liberty	2 00			5 32		70	17 00	700
Mulberry	80	55	1 80	50	25			250
Mt. Pisgah	1 00		2 05					
Mt. Pleasant	1 10		30	60				400
Macedonia	1 40		6 20	1 25				600
Mt. Tabor	1 75	1 35	1 35	1 00				300
New Prospect	85				2 10			
Cleveland	1 75			3 52	25			
Oak Grove	1 20		3 00	85	60			
Pine Grove	1 50		2 00	1 80				400
Pine Bluff	1 00				1 50			
Mt. Carmel	1 25				70			250
Col'n at Asso'n		9 05		9 00				
Total	30 25	1760	35 49	4189	13 40	188	51 60	7800

*For Indigent Ministers $1.50

† Incidental $18.00.

Public collection for Walnut Grove College 10 00.

Dear Brethren: We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following as our report:— We are glad to note the continued improvement and progress of the work done by our people along this line. We are also glad to note that the opposition that we once had to meet has given away and instead we have all the assurance of the hearty approval of the brains of the church, and also of the great Head of the church. In former years we would hardly find a Sunday School in our bounds but we find in our Association now represented 25 churches with 10 Sunday Schools with an enrollment 548 pupils, their expenses having been as follows:—

SUNDAY SCHOOL.	EXPENSES.	PUPILS.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.	EXPENSES.	PUPILS.
Holy Pond	$6	49	Pine Bluff		
County Line	5	35	Antioch (Home Missions)	$2.25	
Oak Grove		50	Brooksville		66
Liberty Hill		68	Macedonia		90
Harmony	2.25	61	Blountsville	$18	130

Brethren let those of us who have not been in the work take courage from the example set by our brethren who are in advance of us on this line. We must teach the people the truth as understood and believed by our great church and denomination. Let us awake to the necessity of teaching the people the Gospel of our Lord. If they are not taught by us they will be taught the faith and practice of those whom we think to be in error.

A. F. Whitley and I. T. Stephens of the Committee.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

II. Of the True God.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love: that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his

Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state: in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or choice.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is worthy of grace through the meditorial offices of the Son of God; who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enhtroned in heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

V. Of Justification.

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secured to such as believe in him is justification, that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condition.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith.

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and help-

lessness and of the ways of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, santifies and saves sinners: that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humanity, love prayer, praise, trust in God. and active immitation of his mercy; that it encourages the use of means, in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of christain assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmoss diligence.

X. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer

XI Of the Perseverance of Saints

We believe that such only are believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare: and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribes to fallen man to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love to sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establisment of the visible church.

XIII. Of A Gospel Church.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of bap-

tized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his law: and excercising the gifts rights and privileges invested in them by his work; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that christian baptism is immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, or faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privilege of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceeded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. Of the Christian Sabbath.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI Of Civil Government

We believe the civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest of good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII Of the Righteous and Wicked.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. Of the World to Come.

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place: that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

STATISTICS OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1899.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	CLERKS P. O.	Membership last reported	Inc. by Baptism	Inc. by Letter	Inc. by Restoration	Dec. by Letter	Dec. by Exclusion	Dec. by Death	Present Membership	Preaching Sun
Antioch	F Tidwell	F P Smith	Liberty	105	3	6		4		1	109	3
Austin Creek	S J Cox	G E Pass	Joy	91				2		2	87	
Big Warrior	S J Cox	R H Harden	Tidmore	16	1	3	1	1		1	19	
Brooksville	W Y Adams	P G Alldredge	Brooksville	37		5		6	1		35	4
Blountsville	W H Absher	R B Sims	Blountsville	55	16	5		8	1		67	2
Bethel	W Y Adams	J D Stephens	Snead	76	12	2		7			83	1
Ceder Grove	E M Bowerman	J I Green	Joy	12		1		1			12	2
Cleveland	F Tidwell	J C Tidwell	Tidwell	83	9	6	1	10		1	88	1
County Line	T D Holcomb	W M Hannah	Garley's Creek	41	3	1		6	1		39	4
Friendship	H G B Bynum	V A Carrol	Friendship	130	5		2	12	2	2	122	2
Gunn's Cove	T J Chamblee	T F Musgrove	Bangor	22							22	2
Holly Pond	J E Baily	W A Chance	Holly Pond	137	10	12		12	1	1	146	2
Harmony	T A May	W L Ellison	Walnut Grove	112	20			1			131	1
Liberty Hill	J W Crumbley	E M Cox	Royal	60				5	2		53	2
Liberty*	F Tidwell	O A Steele	Oneonta	152	1			6	2	2	128	2
Mulberry	H W Head	E R Moore	Hanceville	27	1	1	2	2			27	
Mt. Carmel	J C Buckner	W R Tidwell	Oneonta	60	7			21	6		45	4
Mt. Pisgah	W A Alexand'r	R R Harris	Nix	71				3	3		65	3
Mt. Pleasant	J W Crumbley	G W Tumlin	Clarence	65		2		3	1		63	1
Mt. Tabor	S J Cox	J W Ratliff	Gum Springs	70	22			1			91	2
Macedonia	W Y Adams	M B Lowry	McLarty	67	9			1	1	1	73	3
New Prospect	W A Alexand'r	J H Stracener	Cabot	61				2		2	57	
Oak Grove	A A Pannel	W G Dutton	Bangor	85	40	2	4	2	3		1 51	1
Pine Grove	J W Crumbley	M A Murphree	Rosa	81		3		10		2	72	4
Pine Bluff	E M Bowerman	John Mewborn	Adville	58	4	1	2	2	1		75	
	* Erased 15											
Total				1772	143	50	12	127	25	15	1726	